

Expedited Procedure Under 37 CFR §1.116

Application No. 10/516,796

Paper Dated January 5, 2009

In Reply to Final Office Action Dated October 3, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 3985-045798

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An orthopedic device for supporting the function of at least one part of a human limb with a pivotable joint, on either side of which joint there extends respective limb parts, comprising:

a structure comprising two substantially rigid parts, which parts are coupled to each other by hinge means and each comprise fastening means for temporary fastening to a limb part,

wherein the hinge means comprise two hinges and each hinge has a pivot axis and pivots freely about that axis, wherein the respective pivot axes extend in directions which make an angle with each other of $90^\circ \pm 40^\circ$,

bounding means for limiting to a chosen angular position at least one of the pivoting movements of at least one of the hinges to unrestrained movement within a chosen range of motion;

wherein the fastening means comprise at least two divisible rings with adjustable periphery, one of which is connected to the one side of the joint and the other to the other side of the joint; and

wherein the bounding means comprise a flexible, tensively strong element, the ends of which are connected to the divisible rings such that the flexible element can bound the pivoting movement of at least one hinge.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pivot axes are spaced from one another at a distance, which distance is chosen such that it corresponds with the pivoting characteristics of the relevant joint.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 9,

Expedited Procedure Under 37 CFR §1.116

Application No. 10/516,796

Paper Dated January 5, 2009

In Reply to Final Office Action Dated October 3, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 3985-045798

wherein the bounding means comprise stop means added to a hinge.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said structure is provided on only one side with hinge means.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the device is a knee orthosis.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the respective pivot axes make an angle with each other of $90^\circ \pm 20^\circ$.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An orthopedic device for supporting the function of at least one part of a human limb with a pivotable joint on either side of which joint there extends respective limb parts, comprising:

a structure comprising two substantially rigid parts which parts are coupled to each other by hinge means and each comprise fastening means for temporary fastening to a limb part,

wherein the hinge means comprise two hinges and each hinge has a pivot axis and pivots freely about that axis, wherein the respective pivot axes extend in directions which make an angle with each other of $90^\circ \pm 40^\circ$ and, wherein each hinge freely rotates about its respective pivot axis;

bounding means for limiting to a chosen angular position at least one of the pivoting movements of at least one of the hinges to unrestrained movement within a chosen range of motion;

wherein the fastening means comprise at least two divisible rings with adjustable periphery, one of which is connected to the one side of a joint and the other to the other side of a joint; and

wherein the bounding means comprise a flexible, tensively strong element, the ends of which are connected to the divisible rings such that the flexible element can bound the pivoting movement of at least one hinge.